

Washington, DC - Congressman Charles Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement hailing the passage of HR 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007. The legislation will provide health care to 11 million low-income children by reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), strengthens Medicare, controls out of pocket costs for seniors, and helps ensure seniors have access to the doctors of their choice by stopping a scheduled 10 percent payment cut to doctors. "The passage of the CHAMP Act marks significant progress for healthcare in America and it commendably accomplishes its goals in a fiscally responsible matter. Congress today has displayed a strong commitment to 998,000 of Texas's children of the working poor by expanding affordable healthcare options for their families. I'm proud to have been a part of the passage of this bill, for its provisions to streamline payments to Medicare Advantage providers, eliminate a scheduled physicians' payment reduction, implement preventative tobacco use measures, and most importantly, cover eligible children under SCHIP, will all result in a stronger healthcare system in our country."

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